

Scott Jaburek
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Hartford, Ct
06106

Testimony in support of HB 6599: An Act Concerning Discrimination

Members of the Committee:

My name is Scott Jaburek and I am a student at Trinity College in Hartford, Ct, and I am writing to support HB 6599: An Act Concerning Discrimination. Originally I am from Chicago, Il and as I have spent more time in Connecticut I have grown to love it very much. I have grown to love the friendly nature of its people and the nurturing and inclusive environment which it possesses.

In my junior year in high school I worked with the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance to amend the Chicago Public Schools non-discrimination policy to include gender identity/expression. As a Student Government Senator at Trinity, every time enumerated classes are listed and gender identity/expression are not included, I speak up. And also when I have the opportunity to include transgender people and gender non-conforming people into the rights and privileges which I enjoy I speak up. Naturally, in this instance as well I felt the need to step up.

I do not feel so strongly about these issues because I have close friends or family who are trans, because I do not. I do not stand firmly for these issues because I am trans, because I am not. I stand so strongly in support of these issues because to me this is simply common sense. For me, it is simply common sense that we should protect those in our society who are most vulnerable to oppression and discrimination. To me, it is common sense to protect the rights of all people to be who they are, or to become the people they want to be.

To me it only makes sense that Connecticut now takes this step. Though it is not always easy, we must not use our own inhibitions and deep-seated prejudices to decide what is okay for others or who should be protected in our state. We must use our ideals. We must use our ideal that all people are created equal. We must use our ideal that in our nation everyone has the chance to succeed. We must use our ideal that no one is free until we are all free.

I ask that you please vote yes. Thank you.